

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/839,309

Examiner

Michael N. Opsasnick

Applicant(s)

ITO ET AL.

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/2/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5-8,10 and 12-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

MICHAEL N. OPSASNICK
Michael N. Opsasnick
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1,3,5-8,10,12-15 are allowable over the prior art of record.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per the independent claims, the claim recitations toward extracting a second attribute value of the first predetermined tag as the voice output contents and text surrounded by second predetermined tags as the voice input candidates if the selected rule is a first rule, and extracting text in a range from a head to a third predetermined tag in the document as the voice output contents and anchors in the range as the voice input candidates if the selected rule is a second rule, is not explicitly taught by the prior art of record. With respect to the prior art of record, Ladd et al (6269336) teaches a parser unit receiving the information from the network and parsing according to syntax rules (Col. 12 lines 18-20). The markup language can include elements that describe the structure of a document or page, provide pronunciation of words and phrases, and place markers in the text to control interactive voice services. The markup language also provides elements that control phrasing, emphasis, pitch, speaking rate, and other characteristics. (Col. 16, 12-16, and fig. 6; the dialogue section of fig. 6 contains both input candidates and output contents, which may also include instructions to fetch additional elements via SQL calls – col. 41 lines 45-50). Chung et al (61156868) teaches an HTML parser outputting HTS control rules to the HTS control parser wherein the HT control parser can

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receive four different types of rules (intonation, audio data rule, enunciation rule, and terminology translation rule (Figs. 1-5b, 22, 24; col. 6 lines 9-61). Lin (6381597) teaches the use of predetermined tags to be used in a comparison against identified tags (col. 10 lines 23-30) and reverting back to an identifying step when relevant information is lacking (col. 11 lines 44-57). However, none of the prior art of record, alone or in combination, teach the limitations of the independent claims as noted above. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of document processing to modify the teachings of the prior art of record to obtain the recited limitations of the independent claims as noted above.

35 USC § 101


3. As per claim 14, the phrase in the preamble “A computer-executable program, embodied in a computer-readable medium” has been determined to be equivalent to the accepted language “a computer readable medium embodied with a computer program”. Furthermore, the claim language “for controlling a computer to perform document processing, said program comprising codes for causing the computer to perform” has been determined to establish a functional relationship between the computer readable medium, and the computer executing the program that is embodied on the computer readable medium. As such, independent claim 14 has been found to be statutory under 35 U.S.C. 101 Interim Guidelines.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Opsasnick, telephone number (571)272-7623, who is available Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Richemond Dorvil, can be reached at (571)272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mno

primary examiner
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04/24/07